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## Crop Situation Paves Way for Farm Agitators

Wave of Discontent Opens Eyes of Northwest to the Nonpartisan League and Socialistic Appeals

Primaries Show Reaction

Low Prices and No Cars May Have Striking Results in the Fall Elections

By Carter Field

ST. PAUL, Oct. 26.—Overproduction of wheat, oats and potatoes, and not enough cars to move even what the rest of the world is willing to buy at low prices, together spell the answer to the wave of discontent which has swept over this whole country. From the Canadian line down the farmers find themselves with bumper crops, but with prices offered, even when cars can be provided, that in many instances do not pay the cost of production.

Up in the "Slope" country, west of the Missouri River in North Dakota, for example, there is the first real crop after four years of slim harvests. Low prices for this crop mean virtually that many of the farmers might almost as well have taken a vacation for the last five years.

Naturally enough, the farmers are inclined to listen to every political agitator who tells them that the fault is not theirs, but with the governments, both at Washington and at their state capitals. That is what has brought the Nonpartisan League up from its low-water mark of last year, after the Harding landslide had swept it under two years ago, and the recall of Franklin D. Roosevelt has deprived them of most of the offices they had obtained.

The cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, which together constitute the metropolis of the upper section, are prosperous in themselves, but with a full realization that the poor prices being received by the farmers this year mean poor buying power throughout the markets these cities reach.

Urges Long-Term Credits

Even the most conservative candidates for election this year are advocating what would sound radical in New York. There is unanimous agreement among them, for example, that long-term credits in heavy amounts must be provided for the farmers in the future. This will not take care of the situation created by the present crop shortage, and it is contended that it will be actually sounder economy than to provide for the rolling stock for the railroads that the crop-moving peak load can be met. This last solution, it is admitted, would leave the railroads of the country burdened with a capital charge for expensive equipment on which there would be a return only for a very brief period each year.

The whole situation, of course, is intensified now by the after effects of the coal strike. The East has monopolized the supply of rolling stock, the Eastern roads charging a day's pay for a car, 75 cents a day for each box car, and the lines of the railroad owning it, because the cars down-East are at a premium. Incidentally it is charged up here that thousands of box cars are being used at Eastern terminals to-day for storage.

Business men here insist that anthracite coal should be shipped to the Northwest in through trains from Pennsylvania, so that the cars would get up here and could be used on their return East to carry grain. They say the cars now carrying coal to the lake ports are being turned back after unloading and never get up here at all.

Drain Canada of Cars

Not only is the East at the present moment in possession of thousands of box cars belonging to all the great railroads up here, but Canada has been drawn upon to an extent of something like 25,000 cars in excess of the United States owned cars which are in the Dominion.

The best preventive for the future, it is agreed by all concerned up here—aside from those hoping for political changes at the result of the Socialistic appeals—is low interest loans to the farmers in order that they would not all be in a rush to put their wheat, potatoes and oats on the market the moment they are harvested. It is this rush to market, occasioned by pressure on the banks which have been carrying the farmers and want to liquidate their loans at the earliest possible moment, that causes the terrible congestion in transportation at this period every year, and results usually in the farmer getting the lowest price of the year for his products, regardless of whether there is a coal strike or overproduction cuts prices. These two are simply additional factors which this year are making the situation worse. The situation is always bad.

It is this sort of thing which results in the famous "middleman" taking so much toll. This in turn gives the Nonpartisan League orator fertile soil in which to sow the seed of discontent. The farmer knows something is wrong. He is sure he is yielding the sweat of his brow for a very inadequate price—this year an absurd price for some of his products as compared with the actual cost of production. So he is inclined to vote against every one who is in office, or tied up with a party that is in office, feeling sure that a change at least could do him little harm, even if it does him no good. And the agitators, of course, are promising him solemnly that a change will do him a great deal of good.

Price Hangs on Overproduction

The overproduction angle, however, is attracting much attention in the cities. This year the wheat crop of Canada is around 385,000,000 bushels, of which about 285,000,000 bushels is available for export, being in excess of Canadian needs. That means that 285,000,000 bushels of Canadian wheat is being thrown on the markets of the world—chiefly Liverpool—in competition with American wheat. This country, in addition, has produced about 850,000,000 bushels, which is about 250,000,000 bushels, roughly, more than this country can consume. The price of all wheat, naturally, is governed by what that additional 250,000,000 bushels of wheat, which must be exported, can bring in world markets.

So far as controlling the price of wheat here is concerned, the high tariff imposed by the emergency bill and the Fordney-McCumber bill is ineffective, according to the men up here whose business it is to keep in touch with this situation. The net effect of it has been to prevent a small amount of very hard Canadian wheat being brought down to the Twin Cities and other large milling centers, where it would have been mixed with softer local grades and thus produce a flour considered better for some purposes. But, naturally, keeping this hard wheat out of the United States merely has diverted it to the world market in Liverpool, where in one way the effect of its being offered for sale is just a little bit worse than a similar number

of bushels from the United States. The reason is that it would be slightly preferred to American wheat by some buyers for the same reason that the American millers want some of it to mix with local wheat.

The exportable surplus of wheat from both sides of the Canadian line is just about the total amount of wheat exported from all wheat-raising countries the year before the European war, so that when the crops of Argentina and other parts of the world are thrown into the market there is evidently more wheat, not than can be consumed, perhaps, but than can be bought. Contributing to this is the fact that so much of Europe cannot buy what is ready now.

The situation with regard to potatoes, if anything, is worse than that of wheat. Minnesota this year produced more potatoes than any other state in the Union. The estimated potato crop of the state is now 85,395,000 bushels, with Wisconsin and Michigan second and third, and New York relegated to fourth place. All over the country the potato crop is big, so that it is estimated by experts here that the country has raised about one-half bushel for every man, woman and child in the United States more than the country can consume.

After taking about 9,855 cars of potatoes the railroads have virtually laid down, refusing to take potatoes at all for consignment to Chicago, Kansas City and St. Louis. Even for other destinations, while there are no embargoes, the farmers cannot get cars. An Interstate Commerce Commission investigator found that one day last week the railroads had orders for 2,000 cars for northern Minnesota alone for potato shipments and furnished only 119 cars.

The result is that many of the farmers are letting their potatoes rot in the ground, since most of them have scant storage facilities and digging them out would mean only a waste of the labor involved.

The same condition applies to two other big crops of this part of the country—barley and oats. A leading business man of Minneapolis has a farm, a brother who is a lawyer, and raised a fine crop of oats. The price received for them was 19 cents a bushel. The cost for thrashing was 10 cents a bushel, so that he received actually nine cents a bushel. He estimated that it cost him 25 cents for every bushel he raised.

Barley is bringing about 20 cents a bushel. One farmer up in North Dakota, a brother by the way, is a Democratic candidate for Senator, is feeding his barley to pigs.

"I expect to make those pigs pay me \$1 a bushel for my barley," he told a friend.

Stock Raising Is Urged

This last, in a nutshell, is another of the solutions being urged by many of the newspaper editors and other leaders of this country, as against the soothing syrup cure-all remedies of the radicals.

They are making the same drive for diversified farming, and particularly for stock raising and dairy farming, up here that the Department of Agriculture concentrated on in the South just before the European war, in an effort to correct the same evils in the South due to overproduction of cotton.

Much is being made of the case of a farmer in the northern part of the state who is planning to sell none of his potatoes—of course, he would have a slim chance of doing that anyhow—but who has constructed two big "feed coopers" in which he will prepare his potatoes to be fed to his hogs all winter. That farmer, if all goes well, will have a product next spring which will bring a good price instead of taking a heavy loss on his potatoes.

At present there is astonishingly little stock raising in all this country. The farmers up here have always regarded it as their one and only job to be the bread producers of the world. Raising stock would, it is pointed out, break the crushing load of interest they have to pay the banks, as the result of only getting their crop money once a year. Those who will turn to dairy farming can get their money monthly, which would mean no interest payments at all. But more important they would be scaling down the present overproduction of grain and potatoes.

The difficulty confronting those trying to change the agricultural habits of the farmers is that every year there is a bad crop prices are high, so every farmer figures on raising a big wheat and potato crop next season.

When he gets a big crop and poor

## Tammany Sends Election Thugs Into Brooklyn

Investigation Shows Strong-Arm Men and Ex-Convicts Planted for Use at Polls; One Suspect Is Seized

Bail Is Set at \$1,000

71 Are Examined for Bogus Assistance Rendered by Inspectors at the Polls

Investigation into the charges that Tammany is prepared to elect its ticket from Governor down by hook or crook on Election Day tended yesterday to show.

That gunmen, thugs, ex-convicts and other types of election strong-arm men had been planted in Brooklyn.

That in Tammany strongholds in Manhattan one of the popular violations of the election law is to have inspectors accompany able-bodied voters into the booths to render "assistance" in marking the ballot.

Admissions of the second charge were made by election inspectors from the 4th Assembly District, who insisted, however, that they believed it was within the law.

Proof of the first charge was produced by Grover M. Moscovitz, the Special Deputy Attorney General in charge of election frauds in Brooklyn who had several warrants issued for election law violators. One of them was served yesterday, on an ex-convict, who was charged with fraudulent registration. The accused, Marko Menella, admitted he had been indicted for grand larceny in the first degree and receiving stolen goods, and had been sentenced to the penitentiary for six months. He waived examination and was held in \$1,000 bail by County Judge Martin. This is the second arrest by Mr. Moscovitz in two days.

Couple Vote Together

Senator Abraham I. Kutlin, Republican, representing a Brooklyn district, laid additional information before Mr. Moscovitz, charging that Tammany had imported a host of men from the underworld and had them fraudulently registered. Senator Kutlin was promised that his charges would be investigated within forty-eight hours.

Abraham S. Gilbert, Special Deputy State Attorney General, charged in Manhattan, wrung admissions from Max Gottlieb, one of the lieutenants of Tammany leader Edward J. Ahearn, of the 4th Assembly District, that he permitted men and women who claimed to be husband and wife to vote in one booth.

Mr. Gottlieb, who is chairman of an election board, said that any person who professed to be illiterate, nervous, blind or suffering from poor eye-sight

prices he blames the government. Actually the whole situation is very much the same as the cotton situation in the South just before the war, and the most socialistic clamor being uttered up here is no more silly, from an economic standpoint, than the drive of the cotton farmers of the South—or rather the political demagogues in Congress from that section—in the fall of 1914, when they demanded that the Federal government buy cotton at 10 cents a pound and hold it until the storm passed.

Conservative and intelligent men in the South, if they were in politics, had to bow to that storm, as a search of the Congressional Record during the last few months of 1914 will show.

Similarly, many men conservative at heart and sound economically in mind are bowing to the storm up here, but the condition has played havoc with the primaries in some states, and may possibly have some queer results in the election.

Loading of Bituminous Coal

Largest Since December 20

WASHINGTON, Oct. 25.—Loading of bituminous coal on Monday was the largest since December 20, 1920, according to reports received to-day from the carriers by the car service division

he considered entitled to assistance, and rendered it.

Gottlieb, confronted with the law, which varied with his practice, said he never so understood it. It turned out during the investigation that several of the women who were supposed to be "blind" or "partially blind," or "who could not see without the aid of glasses," thus entitling them to assistance, could read either with glasses or without them, and were not in a single instance legally entitled to any aid in registration.

One of the voters registered from 174 South Street, Mrs. Ida Gerbet, was given "assistance" because she had "the shivers" whenever she went into the voting booth.

Two Districts Register Gains

The 4th Assembly District, along with the 1st Assembly District, the home district of Alfred E. Smith—are the only districts in the city which showed increased registration this year over last year.

The registration books of the 1st Assembly District, which are said to be padded by nearly 3,500 fraudulent names, have been subpoenaed, as well as the books of the 12th Assembly District, the home of Charles F. Murphy, Tammany leader.

In these lower East Side districts, forty-five of them members of Charles F. Murphy's organization and an equal number from Samuel S. Koenig's organization, were sent to the penitentiary for from one to six months for stealing a primary election from William M. Bennett, who was opposed by Koenig.

In 1912, in Al Smith's home district, out of a total registration of 6,500, 1,500 floaters registered, but none of them voted. The fraudulent registrations were made public and rewards offered for their arrest if they attempted to vote on Election Day.

Mr. Gilbert had seventy-one men and women in New York City given "assistance" by the election inspectors in the 4th Assembly District, who thus learn how they vote, but stopped short after examining a few. He left off with Samuel Dickstein, Tammany candidate for Congress from the district, said:

"Concede that all the other sixty-one will give similar testimony showing that they were not entitled to assistance."

Mr. Gilbert intimated that he was not considering prosecutions in these particular cases.

"It was apparent," said he, "no attempt had been made to have the voters in this district who are recorded as needing assistance take the oath required under the statute by these inspectors. I would rather take that course than wholesale prosecutions. But I want all the election inspectors of this city to understand that I will prosecute to the limit any violations of the law that I get evidence of on Election Day."

Asked if he would prosecute the election inspectors involved, he said: "I have warned them and told them that any action now depends on how they act on Election Day. It is my purpose to keep the coming election clean. If warning will procure that result, I would rather take that course than wholesale prosecutions. But I want all the election inspectors of this city to understand that I will prosecute to the limit any violations of the law that I get evidence of on Election Day."

of the American Railway Association. The total for last Monday was 43,243 cars. This was an increase of 2,042 cars over the high mark since the strike.

Anthracite coal loading on Monday amounted to 6,328 cars, surpassing the daily loading for the first three weeks of this month by more than 200 cars.

More Ships Aid Near East

Shipping Board Offers as Many as Red Cross Needs

From The Tribune's Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, Oct. 25.—Two Shipping Board vessels and more if needed will be placed at the disposal of the American Red Cross for transporting relief supplies to the Near East, J. B. Smull, president of the Emergency Fleet Corporation, announced to-day.

The first steamer, the *Coeur d'Alene*, will be available to carry 5,000 tons of cargo when it departs from New York City November 5. The remainder of the supplies will be transported on the *Hog Island*, which is due to leave New York November 10. A third steamer, sailing November 20, will be available for additional supplies for the relief of Smyrna refugees.

## Schools Chiefs Clash on Issue Of Part Time

Superintendent Says Report of President Is "Virtually Worthless"; Dove of Peace Called

Terms Survey "Casual"

Then Ryan Hits Back at Ettinger, Alleging Discrepancies in Findings

A report on the part-time situation in elementary schools, made by George J. Ryan, president of the Board of Education, was characterized as "virtually worthless" by William L. Ettinger, Superintendent of Schools in New York City, at a meeting of the board yesterday.

In a statement presented to the members Mr. Ettinger said he had serious doubt of the value of the conclusions set forth in the president's report as an index of conditions actually existing in the schools.

"It is not surprising," he remarked, "that conclusions reached through the study of figures by an investigator acquainted with our schools only in a casual, external way, should be virtually worthless."

Mr. Ryan in turn filed a memorandum with the board, in which he stated that there were discrepancies in a statement on the same situation in high schools made by Mr. Ettinger at a previous meeting. He charged that the report did not accurately present the conditions.

Calls for Dove of Peace

The controversy originated several weeks ago, when each of the two men began an investigation of the crowded condition of the schools. Mr. Ryan made an investigation of the elementary schools, based on the comparative figures of the registry last year as compared with the number of pupils this year. He found that although the total had fallen off the number of schools running on part time and double session had increased.

Mr. Ettinger at the same time made a report on the condition in the high schools. Both presented their findings at the last meeting of the Board of Education, on October 11.

After listening to Mr. Ettinger's statements, Mr. Ryan said that they were "not in keeping with the dignity of this body." Mr. Ettinger, however, indicated that he would stand by his remarks concerning the value of Mr. Ryan's investigation.

At this point Arthur S. Somers, chairman of the finance committee, arose to urge that the dove of peace hover over future relations between the various members of the board.

"I am going to ask all of the members of this board to refrain from showing any temper," he said. "Our service is a service to the children of this city, so let us strive from to-day on to get team-work in the organization."

To Continue His Effort

In reply Mr. Ryan said that he concurred with Mr. Somers' views.

"There is nothing personal in what I say in these reports," he remarked, "and they should not be taken in a personal manner by any one here, including the Superintendent of Schools. I want to add, however, that I propose to continue to report conditions that I see or hear for the benefit of the children of this city. There should be nothing personal in that."

## Roosevelt's Sister Calls Miller Regime Best Ever

Combines Cleveland's Acumen With the Courage of Her Brother, She Says

Mrs. Corinne Roosevelt Robinson, sister of Theodore Roosevelt, and a writer of note, declared yesterday that Governor Miller had given New York State the best administration it ever had. This did not except, she added, the administration of her brother.

"Governor Nathan L. Miller," she said, "has given for two years the best administration the Empire State has ever had, and this I say with memory undimmed to what Theodore Roosevelt

and Grover Cleveland did as governors of New York State.

"Governor Miller has shown in his administration the legal equipment of Grover Cleveland and the dauntless courage of Theodore Roosevelt in the face of the grave problems connected with his difficult position. His record is astounding; for two years he has striven in the economy and efficiency of government and actual achievement in the welfare ideals which have long hung fire."

Mrs. Robinson has just returned from a campaign tour of several state districts in behalf of the candidacy of Theodore Roosevelt for the United States Senate. She predicted an overwhelming majority for Governor Miller.



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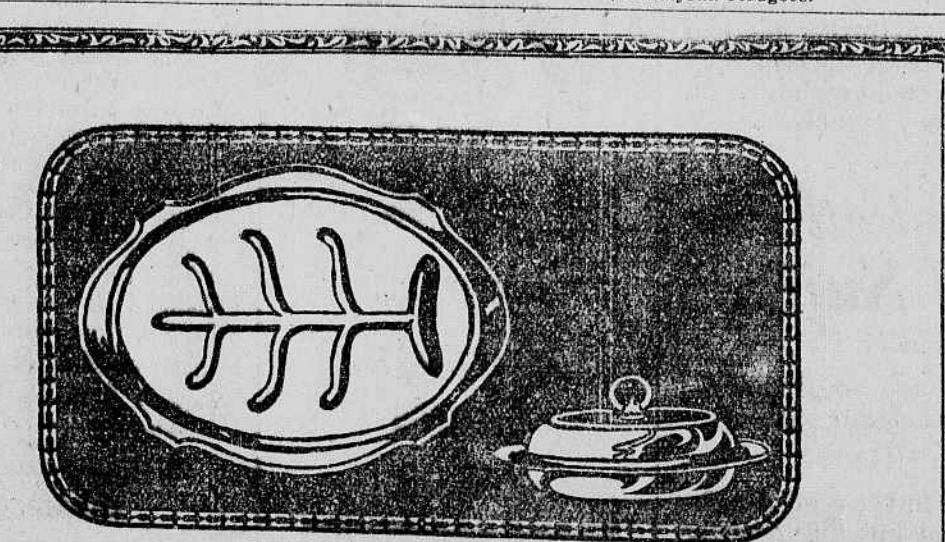
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There are things for the boudoir of a young girl, things for the dining room of a young married couple, things for the study or the office of the man of affairs, and a great number of things which are quite catholic in their usefulness.

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